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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/835,329	04/17/2001	Makoto Sato	862.C2201	5316
5514	7590	06/07/2004	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			PATEL, KANJIBHAI B	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2625				
DATE MAILED: 06/07/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/835,329	SATO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Kanji Patel	2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-35, 38 and 39 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 36 and 37 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 8/13/01 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 2/1/02 was filed in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to because of the following informalities.

Figure 7, block 603, and change "DISCRETE WAVELET TRANSFORMER" TO -- INVERSE DISCRETE WAVELET TRANSFORMER --.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 20, line 23, change "date" to -- data --

Page 21, line 13, change "date" to -- data --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

5. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 36-37 are directed to a non-statutory subject matter because the terminology "computer program product" alone has no set definition.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claims 1-35 and 38-39 are allowed.

For independent claims 1, 31, 32, 34 and 38, the prior art on record fails to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, for an image processing system for encoding and decoding an image, wherein noise on the image is removed by deleting data of bit planes of levels lower than a lower-limit bit plane in said encoding device and/or said decoding device.

For independent claims 23, 33, 35 and 39, the prior art on record fails to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, for an image processing system for encoding and decoding an image, reclaiming a reference image on the basis of the transform coefficients of a given frequency range of the restored transform coefficients, and removing noise by processing the transform coefficients of the frequency ranges other than the given frequency range on the basis of the reference image.

Other prior art cited

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kondo et al. (US 6,215,421 B1) disclose a coding apparatus and method, decoding apparatus and method, data processing system, and storage medium.

Wilson (US 6,396,958 B1) discloses an image transmission system and method employing compression and error correction.

Yamauchi (US 6,614,939 B1) discloses an image compression apparatus decoding apparatus to suited to loss less image compression.

Contact information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to **Kanji Patel** whose telephone number is (703) 305 4011. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday off. If attempts to reach the examiner by phone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Mehta , Bhavesh**, can be reached on (703) 308- 5246.

Any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the **Group receptionist** whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800. The **Fax number** for this group is (703) 872-9306.



Kanji Patel
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2625
May 27, 2004